

**Zion Methodist Church (Janes)
Originally South Queet St., moved to
222 Calvert Street
Chestertown, Maryland 21620 ca. 1830**

K- 546

This building has served several uses during its 160 years of existence. It was the first church building of Zion Methodist Church, now Janes United Methodist Church, one of the earliest African-American congregations in Kent County. It stood originally on Princess Street (South Queen) south of Cannon Street and at the end of Chestertown settlement. The congregation was organized in 1831, and likely the church was built soon thereafter. Early in the twentieth century it was moved to Calvert Street and converted to a private residence. It is a rectangular, two-story frame building, with the gable end now turned toward the street. A front porch has been added, decorated with late Victorian carved corner brackets ornamenting the top of the porch posts. The long side of the building has three bays: a central door with windows on each side. There are three corresponding windows on the second floor, and on the opposite side. A shed wing has been added at the rear. Although the building is now covered with wide asbestos siding, some early trim survives, e.g. the window moldings, which are of a simple ovolo backband style, the box beneath the eaves, and the trim framing the gable. The latter has a beaded edge and is gradually narrowed toward the peak of the gable. The interior of the house has been completely rearranged and is a series of rooms, one behind the other.

At the beginning of the Methodist movement in the 1780's, whites and African-American Methodists had worshipped together. Soon the African-Americans began

to feel less welcome and organized their own churches. The group that became Zion, now Janes, began meeting in each others' houses, and by 1831 they were sufficiently well organized and financed to buy a site for their church on Princess Street (South Queen) near Scott's Point at the southern edge of Chestertown.

The organizers of Zion included many of the leaders of Chestertown's free African-American community; James A. Jones was a successful grocer, who also owned land on Scott's Point and upper Cannon Street. Jones was a Kent County representative at the Baltimore Convention on African Colonization in 1852. William Perkins, also a Janes trustee, was also present at that Convention, and after suffrage was granted to African-Americans was a leader in encouraging local African-Americans to participate in elections. Other trustees were William N. Jones, who also lived on Scott's Point, William Demby, Edward Miller, James Bentley, Lorenzo Dunn, and Thomas Wright.

Zion outgrew this building by the 1860's, and in 1866 the congregation moved to a new, larger church further south on Queen Street, near the railroad tracks. Zion, now renamed Janes after Edmund S. Janes, a beloved Delaware bishop, also established a cemetery near its new church at the edge of town. The old church became Janes Parsonage, and part of it was used as an annex to the school on Cross Street. "Domestic Science" and the elementary grades were taught at the old Zion.

A new parsonage was built in the 1890's, and the old building was moved to its present location on Calvert Street and converted to use as a private residence. 70/

HISTORIC CONTEXT

K-546
ZION M.E. CHURCH

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization

- 1) Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period

- 10) Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870

Historic Period Themes

- 2) Architecture
- 7) Social/Cultural

Resource Type

Category - Building, private, public acquisition - not applicable, occupied, no access, private residence

Historic Environment - Village

Historic Functions and Uses - church/dwelling

Unknown Design Source

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. K-546

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Zion Methodist Church

and/or common Thomas House

2. Location

street & number 222 Calvert Street not for publication

city, town Chestertown vicinity of congressional district One

state MD county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Yvonne C. Thomas

street & number 2035 Eastburn Ave. telephone no.: Unlisted

city, town Philadelphia state and zip code PA 19138

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber MLM8

street & number Cross Street folio 1

city, town Chestertown, state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-546

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This building, now a private residence, was the original meeting house for Zion, now Janes, United Methodist Church. It is a simple, three-bay, two-story frame structure.

This building has served several uses during its 160 years of existence. It was the first church building of Zion Methodist Church, now Janes United Methodist Church, one of the earliest African-American congregations in Kent County. It stood originally on Princess Street (South Queen) south of Cannon Street and at the end of Chestertown settlement. The congregation was organized in 1831, and likely the church was built soon thereafter. Early in the twentieth century it was moved to Calvert Street and converted to a private residence. It is a rectangular, two-story frame building, with the gable end now turned toward the street. A front porch has been added, decorated with late Victorian carved corner brackets ornamenting the top of the porch posts. The long side of the building has three bays: a central door with windows on each side. There are three corresponding windows on the second floor, and on the opposite side. A shed wing has been added at the rear. Although the building is now covered with wide asbestos siding, some early trim survives, e.g. the window moldings, which are of a simple ovolo back band style, the box cornice beneath the eaves, and the cornice surrounding the gable. The latter has a beaded edge and is gradually narrowed toward the peak of the gable. The interior of the house has been completely rearranged and is a series of rooms, one behind the other.

8. Significance

Survey No. K-546

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
— prehistoric	— archeology-prehistoric	— community planning	— landscape architecture	— religion
— 1400-1499	— archeology-historic	— conservation	— law	— science
— 1500-1599	— agriculture	— economics	— literature	— sculpture
— 1600-1699	— architecture	— education	— military	— social/
— 1700-1799	— art	— engineering	— music	— humanitarian
— 1800-1899	— commerce	— exploration/settlement	— philosophy	— theater
— 1900-	— communications	— industry	— politics/government	— transportation
		— invention		— other (specify)

Specific dates	1830-1840	Builder/Architect	Unknown
check: Applicable Criteria:	<u> A </u> <u> B </u> <u> C </u> <u> D </u>		
and/or			
Applicable Exception:	<u> A </u> <u> B </u> <u> C </u> <u> D </u> <u> E </u> <u> F </u> <u> G </u>		
Level of Significance:	<u> national </u> <u> state </u> <u> local </u>		

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This is the earliest surviving African-American church building in Chestertown, and is the first building of Janes United Methodist Church, one of the two major African-American congregations in Chestertown.

At the beginning of the Methodist movement in the 1780's, whites and African-American Methodists had worshipped together. Soon the African-Americans began to feel less welcome and organized their own churches. The group that became Zion, now Janes, began meeting in each others' houses. By 1831 they were sufficiently well organized and financed to buy a site for their church on Princess Street (South Queen) near Scott's Point at the southern edge of Chestertown.

The organizers of Zion included many of the leaders of Chestertown's free African-American community. James A. Jones was a successful butcher, who owned land on Scott's Point and upper Cannon Street. Along with restaurant owner William Perkins, Jones, was a Kent County representative at the Baltimore Convention on African Colonization in 1852. William Perkins, also a Janes trustee, was also present at that Convention, and after suffrage was granted to African-Americans, was a leader in encouraging local African-Americans to participate in elections. Other trustees were William N. Jones, who also lived on Scott's Point, William Demby, Edward Miller, James Bentley, Lorenzo Dunn, and Thomas Wright.

Zion outgrew this building by the 1860's, and in 1866 the congregation moved to a new, larger church further south on Queen Street, near the railroad tracks. Zion, now renamed Janes after Edmund A. Janes, a beloved Delaware bishop, also established a cemetery near its new church at the edge of town. The old church became Janes Parsonage, and part of it was used as an annex to the school on Cross Street. "Domestic Science" and the elementary grades were taught at the old Zion.

A new parsonage was built in the 1890s, and the old building was moved to its present location on Calvert Street and converted to use as a private residence.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-546

Janes United Methodist Church, 145th Anniversary, "A Historical Sketch," Chestertown, MD 1976, Land records

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Davy McCall

organization Historical Society of Kent County date January 3, 1996

street & number Church Alley telephone 410-778-3499

city or town Chestertown state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

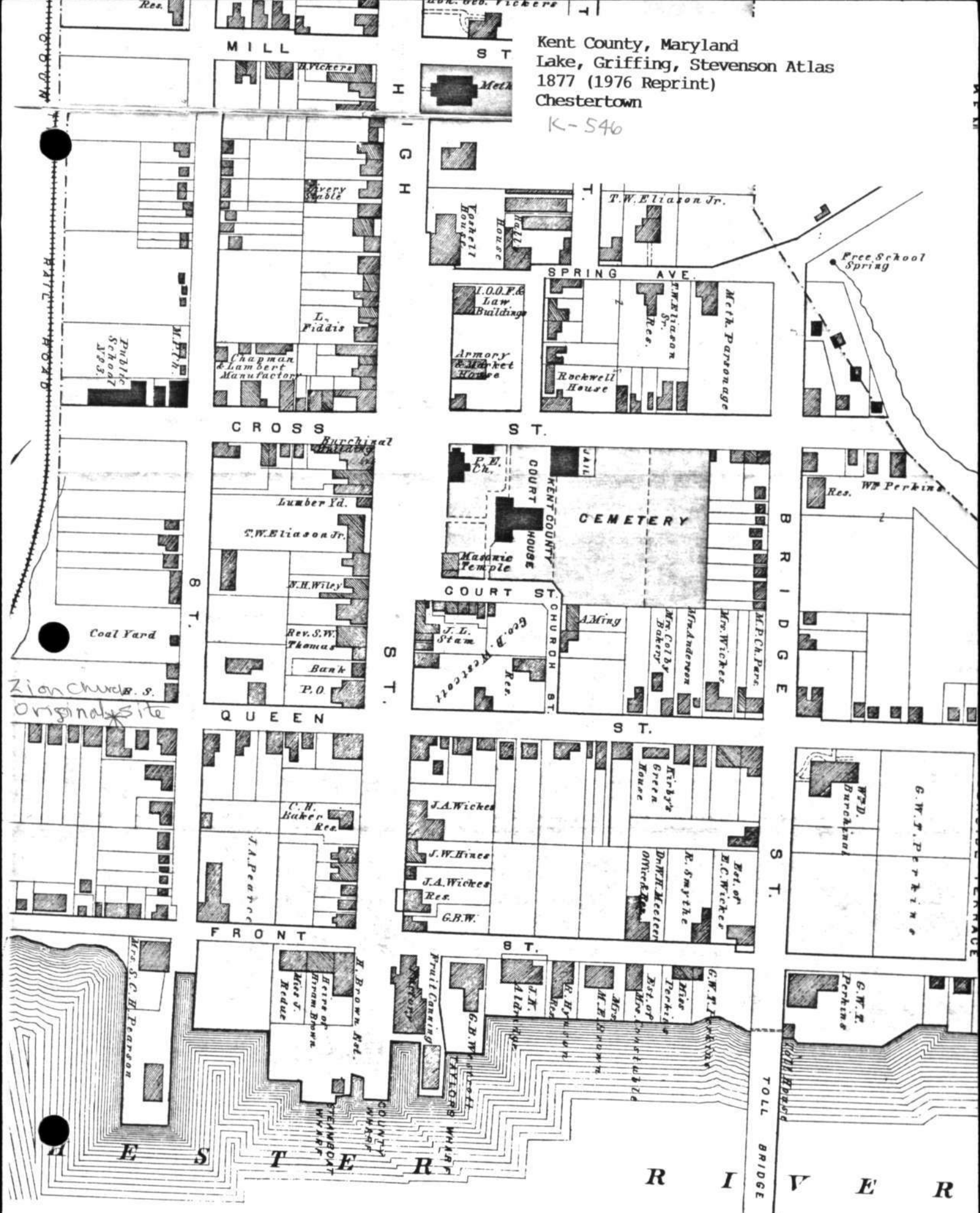
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
-514-7600

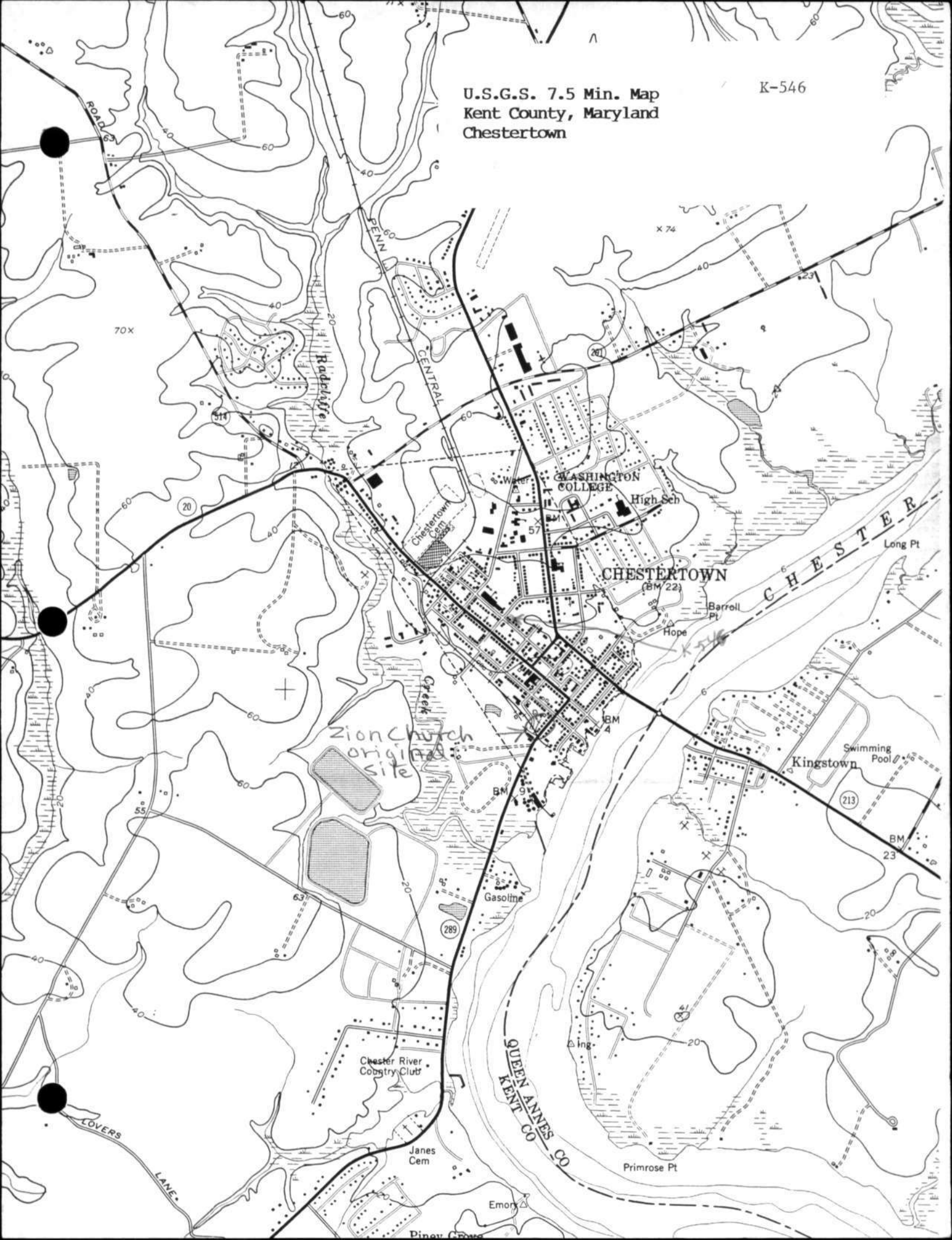
Kent County, Maryland
Lake, Griffing, Stevenson Atlas
1877 (1976 Reprint)
Chestertown

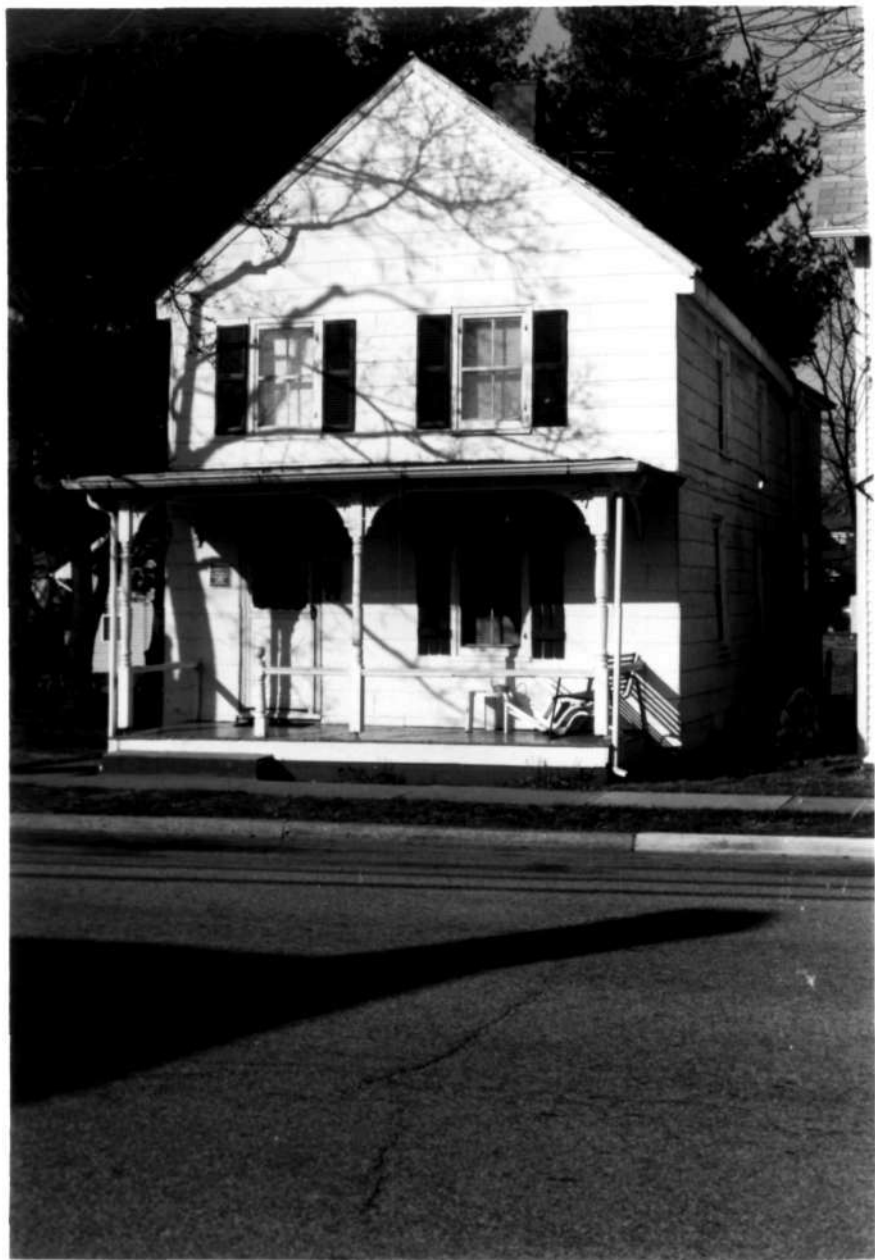
K-546



U.S.G.S. 7.5 Min. Map
Kent County, Maryland
Chestertown

K-546





Zion Methodist Church K-546

S.W. facade

M. Bourne

Spring, 1996